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taken by boats and brought here the same should be secured, but that we could not be answerable for those who might come from other States, and carry off any of the property of East Florida to any other part of the Continent, as our State was not competent to take notice of or punish them. His Excellency, Governor Tonyn, also expressed some apprehensions of a set of men who set themselves down between the two countrys and pay no obedience to the laws of either, that notwithstanding the good intentions of that government and our own some disorders might be committed by such a lawless banditti, and that should this happen every step should be taken to secure & punish such offenders.

LETTER FROM SAMUEL STIRK TO BRIGADIER GENERAL TWIGGS.

Samuel Stirk, the author of the following letter, was a Georgian of distinction, but it is a matter of regret that very little is known of his life. He is supposed to have been born in Georgia, but of this we are not certain. The records show that besides Samuel there was a John as well as a Benjamin Stirk, and the name of Mrs. Hannah Stirk also appears.

When the Excutive Council was chosen for 1777, John Adam Treutlen having defeated Button Gwinnett for the office of Governor, Mr. Stirk was appointed the clerk of that body.

The Assembly which convened in Augusta on the 16th day of August, 1781, elected him a delegate to the Continental Congress. We find in the Journals of the Continental Congress that his credentials were twice read, showing that he was certainly entitled to a seat, but there is no evidence of his ever having been seated.

The same Legislature appointing him to the Continental Congress later elected him Attorney General of Georgia in January, 1783; and about the same time he was appointed a Commissioner from Georgia to treat with Governor Patrick Tonyn, of East Florida, for the settlement of the differences and the prevention of future difficulties along the line of the St. Mary's river.

He was a Lieutenant Colonel in 1778 and 1779 in the service of the State, and was with Gwinnett in the disastrous expedition against East Florida.

He was one of the Justices for Chatham County in 1786 as well as in 1789. In the last mentioned year he was President of the Board of Wardens of Savannah.

We do not know under what circumstances the following letter was written, but we venture to reproduce it from the original, deeming it worthy of preservation.

Augusta, Nov'r 1st, 1781.

The Honorable
Brigadier General Twiggs,
Camp.

Dear General:—

I shall proceed for camp with your dispatches this morning.

Immediately on my arrival in Town, I waited on the Governor & informed him I was honor'd with a letter of a public nature from you to General Greene, the contents of which I delivered him; he immediately spoke on the subject with great agitation, and seem'd much dissatisfied; the next morning I attended when he gave his objections to the measure on a large scale, & told me that the proceeding was contrary to order, as all applications were to be made thro' him as being the superior officer in command, and that it could only be meant to him as a direct affront. I told him that no such thing was meant or intended, but that the officers seem'd much distressed that an application on the same business had not been made (altho' long talked of by him & his Council) before that period, and assured him in plain terms that they could not, and would not, keep the field if some aid did not soon arrive; that however some men might talk lightly of the sufferings that the people of this country underwent, over a good fire & a warm bed to repose in, that the practical part, without a shoe, stocking, or a blanket, was of so serious a nature to them that I should not be surprised if they quit the field & leave to him & his Council to combat the enemy; he then repeated his old story of having already made application to General Greene, by letter, & that his friend Mr. Few was going to headquarters to urge it again. From the whole tenor of his conversation, your letter on the subject hurts him prodigiously, & I am confident would do anything in his power to stop it, but I gave him to understand I had rec'd your express order to proceed & that I should do it at all hazard.

Yesterday Dannally arrived from Philadelphia with letters & news papers; those of a public nature I have not seen; from what I can learn Howly & Walton were much astonished at their not being re-elected; the former means to return here immediately, but it is not known when the latter means to make his appearance. Telfair & Jones have taken their seats in Congress; they have sent us our public account of the monies advanced the State. I am told our delegates have been very liberal on the score of drawing. I could wish for the sake of this injured country that the same could be circulated among the people, that the real conduct of our gentry might be properly inquired into & the people in future know how their affairs are conducted. Messrs. Telfair & Jones mean to bring on cloathing for our troops immediately.

It is reported from very good authority, as well as by letter from Mr. Samuel Miller, that Cornwallis surrendered last month to General Washington; the person who came last from Camden & brought Miller's letter says he heard the guns which were fired at General Greene's camp on the occasion. In a day or two official accounts I expect will be here.

I have rec'd some letters from our delegates which I shall bring to camp with me.

Inclosed is a packet from your friends in Virginia.

Remember me kindly to Majors Demere & Collins, & believe me to be dr. General, with every sentiment of regard, your friend & servant,

SAM'L STIRK.

Excuse haste, as I am now on the wing.